

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01
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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1146
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
DEA HQS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 1141

ANKARA & HQS FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, IR
SUBJ: NARCOTICS REPORTING

REF: STATE 0204#

FOLLOWING ARE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL, KEYED TO
SAME ALPHABETIZATION AS PARA 2 REFTEL.

(A) ESTIMATE OF DIVERSION FROM LICIT PRODUCTION IN IRAN
HIGHLY CONJECTURAL. PREVIOUS NTIONS THAT "ONLY A SMALL
AMOUNT OF LICIT PRODUCTION SEEMS TO BE DIVERTED TO THE ILLICIT
MARKET" ARE NOW REJECTED BY RESPONSIBLE GOI OFFICIALS.
SHAHANDEH, IN TALK WITH DEA'S DEDICH, STATED THAT GOI HAS
BECOME INCREASINGLY AWARE OF THE "LEAKAGE" AND INDICATED GOI'S
INTENT, CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION, AS FOLLOWS:

(1) LIMIT LICIT PRODUCTION TO CERTAIN AREAS AND (2)
FORUMLATE EFFECTIVE MEANS AND CONTROL PROCEDURES OVER PRODUC-
TION AND HARVESTING. POPPY CULTIVATION AND OPIUM PROCESSING
ARE RESPONSIBILITY OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IMPERIAL
IRANIAN GENDARMERIE (IIG). THE AREA TO BE CULTIVATED MUST
BE APPROVED BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WHICH ADMINISTERS
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REGULATORY CONTROLS SUCH AS APPROVAL OF ACREAGE FOR CULTIVA-
TION, ISSUANCE OF LICENSE TO FARMER, AND RURAL COOPERATIVES
ETC. PRIOR TO HARVESTING FRAMER OR RURAL COOPERATIVE MUST
NOTIFY THE MINAG AND THE IIG OF THE IMPENDING HARVEST. THE
SUBSEQUENT COLLECTION OF LATE IN CONDUCTED UNDER THE SUPER-
VISION OF GENDARMES WHO ARE GENERALLY SITUATED IN THE OPIUM
FIELDS TO INSURE COMPLIANCE. AS THE GUM IS GATHERED, IT IS

PLACED IN CONTAINERS AND DELIVERED TO THE LOCAL/DISTRICT OFFICES OF MINAG. IN SOME CASES THE IIG POST. THERE IT IS WEIGHED, MARKED AND STORED IN A LOCKED SUPERVISED CONTAINER WHICH IS TRANSPORTED UNDER GUARD TO THE GOVERNMENT WAREHOUSE. AT VARIOUS STAGES IN THE PROCESS, CHECKS ARE MADE ON THE WEIGHT TO PREVENT LEAKAGE/DIVERSION OF THE OPIUM. INASMUCH AS THE HARVESTING/COLLECTION OF OPIUM IS DONE BY THE TRADITIONAL METHOD (LANCING) REQUIRING LARGE AMOUNTS OF MANUAL LABOR AND TIME, IT OBVIOUSLY OFFERS POSSIBILITIES OF ILLICIT PRODUCTION AND DIVERSION. IN ADDITION TO PHYSICAL CONTROLS, THE GOI ATTEMPTS TO DISCOURAGE DIVERSION OF LICIT OPIUM BY SUBSIDIZING THE FARMER BY PAYING HIM THE PRICE IN EXCESS OF WHAT THE ILLICIT MARKET PAYS.

(B) OPIUM. (1) LKG \$120 TO \$390 (6 TO 16 PERCENT MORPHINE CONTENT). 1 MESCAL/BURNT OPIUM IS 90 CENTS TO \$1.20 (10 PERCENT MORPHINE CONTENT AVERAGE). (2) HEROIN. 1 KG \$4,960 TO \$6,400(SMOKING). \$6,400 TO \$8,600 (INJECTING). 1 GRAM \$8 TO \$12 (SMOKING). 1 GRAM \$12 TO \$16 (INJECTING). PURITY ESTIMATED AT 25 TO 53 PERCENT. WHOLESALE LEVEL PRICE OF 1 KG OF HEROIN IN HAMADAN/REZAYIEH AREA, NORTHWEST IRAN, AREA NOTED FOR MANUFACTURING HEROIN IS \$3,400 TO \$4,900. PRICE OF LG OF LEGALLY REFINED OPIUM ON THE ILLEGAL MARKET IS \$850. MORPHINE BASE NOT AVAILABLE ON ILLICIT MARKET TEHRAN.

NOTE: RECENTLY THERE WAS A TREMENDOUS TEMPORARY RISE ABOVE LEVELS NOTED ABOVE IN RETAIL PRICES OF OPIATES IN TEHRAN. THIS RISE IS ATTRIBUTED TO UNDER-ZERO TEMPERATURES AND HEAVY SNOWFALL, MAKING AVAILABILITY OF OPIATES SCARCE. PRINCIPAL MEANS OF SUPPLY HAD BEEN AFFECTED BY THE HAZARDOUS
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ROAD CONDITIONS BETWEEN TEHRAN AND AZARBAIJAN/HAMADAN PROVINCES, CHIEF SOURCES OF NARCOTIC DRUGS FOR TEHRAN ILLICIT MARKET.
MIKLOS

NOTE BY OC/T: REFTEL NOT IDENTIFIED

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